

Remarks

Reconsideration and reexamination of the above-identified patent application, as amended, are respectfully requested. Claims 1-3, 5-8, 10-11, 13-16, and 18-20 are pending in this application upon entry of this Amendment. In this Amendment, the Applicant has amended claims 2-3 and 8. No claims have been cancelled or added in this Amendment. Of the pending claims, claims 1, 6, 11, and 13 are the only independent claims.

Claim Objections

In the final Office Action mailed June 14, 2005, the Examiner objected to claim 8 for having an improper dependence. In response, the Applicant has amended claim 8 to properly depend from claim 7.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 112

The Examiner rejected claims 2-3 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, 2nd ¶, as being indefinite. The Examiner posited that in claim 2 the phrase “the at least two transceivers includes a third transceiver” is confusing and unclear. The Applicant notes that this phrase was intended to convey that the claimed system includes three transceivers as opposed to at least two transceivers. In order to overcome this rejection, the Applicant has amended claims 2-3 such that amended claims 2-3 recite limitations which correspond to the limitations of claims 7-8. If the Examiner believes that the amendments made to claims 2-3 raise new issues requiring further consideration and/or search, the Examiner is authorized to cancel claims 2-3 by an Examiner’s Amendment in order to obviate such concerns.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Examiner rejected claims 1-3, 5-8, 10-11, 13-16, 18, and 20 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Application Publication No.

2002/0067826 issued to King ("King") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,661,250 issued to Rohrberg ("Rohrberg") and in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,686,908 issued to Kobayashi ("Kobayashi"). The Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection to claims 1-3, 5-8, 10-11, 13-16, 18, and 20 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over King in view of Rohrberg in view of Kobayashi.

1. The Claimed Invention

The claimed invention, as set forth in representative independent claim 1, is a keyless authorized access control system. The system includes at least two transceivers with each transceiver being assigned to a respective object. The system further includes an identification device having a base module operable to communicate commands to the transceivers assigned to the objects. The identification device further includes at least two object modules. Each object module is assigned to a respective one of the objects. Each object module has a memory chip containing a code attuned to the assigned object. Each object module is interchangeably connected to the base module through a respective interface. Each object module has a button operable for activating the base module to communicate to the transceiver assigned to the object that is assigned to the object module a command having the code attuned to the assigned object when the object module is connected through the respective interface to the base module.

2. King, Rohrberg, and Kobayashi

The Examiner posited that King discloses the claimed invention with the exception of explicitly disclosing the system including at least two transceivers and each object module having a button. The Examiner posited that Rohrberg discloses the system including at least two transceivers and posited that it would have been obvious to modify the system of King to include at least two transceivers as disclosed by Rohrberg.

The Examiner posited that Kobayashi, in the same field of endeavor of input remote control devices, discloses that each object module (2a and 2b) (i.e., IC cards) having a button (20) (i.e., mark) operable for activating a base module (1) (i.e., a body of a key input device) to communicate to the transceiver (i.e., transceiver of a network 44 and 45) in order to generate and to transmit a code signal corresponding to its key. The Examiner posited that one of ordinary skill in the art recognizes the need to have a remote unit include a plurality of buttons in IC card to transmit a code signal of Kobayashi in a trainable transmitter of King in view of Rohrberg because King suggests it is desired to provide that a transmitter has a plurality of user-activated switches to generate a code to operate a plurality of functions in different security systems (page 2, paragraphs 0017 to 0018) and Rohrberg furthermore suggests it is desired to have a production transmitter installed in a console of a vehicle to simplify removal and to replace easily (col. 12, lines 7 to 25; Figs. 27-28) and Kobayashi teaches that an IC card includes a plurality of buttons to generate and to transmit a code signal when characters or numerals are pushed and when this IC card is inserted into the key input device (col. 3, line 56 to col. 4, line 62; Figs. 1-6) in order to provide a universal key input device that has various different uses according to the mounted IC card. The Examiner posited that therefore it would have been obvious to have a remote unit include a plurality of buttons in IC card to transmit a code signal of Kobayashi in a trainable transmitter of King in view of Rohrberg with the motivation for doing so being to transmit a code signal corresponding to its pushed button in a trainable transmitter of a vehicle transmitter system.

3. The Claimed Invention compared to King, Rohrberg, and Kobayashi

The claimed invention generally differs from King, Rohrberg, and Kobayashi in that in the claimed invention an object module has a button operable for activating a base module (which is operable to communicate commands with the transceivers) to communicate to a transceiver assigned to the object that is assigned to the object module a command having the code attuned to the assigned object when the object module is connected to the base module.

Kobayashi discloses a tablet key input device 1 having transparent touch panel tablet 1b provided with a detecting portion. When the detecting portion of the transparent touch panel tablet 1b is pushed, a detection signal is output. (See col. 3, line 65 through col. 4, line 4 of Kobayashi.) By mounting an IC card 2 in the tablet key input device 1, marks 20 printed on the surface of the card are recognized visually through the transparent touch panel tablet 1b and are represented in the transparent touch panel tablet 1b as the key operational portion. (See col. 4, lines 8-32 of Kobayashi.) By pushing a predetermined mark 20 of the key operational portion from the top of transparent touch panel tablet 1b, a code signal corresponding to the pushed key is generated. Assignment of the respective keys in the key operational portion represented in transparent touch panel tablet 1b is performed in accordance with a program recorded in the IC card 2. (See col. 4, lines 32-44 of Kobayashi.)

Accordingly, in effect, transparent touch panel tablet 1b has a plurality of buttons which are assigned respective keys in accordance with instructions provided by the IC card 2. That is, the IC card 2 does not have buttons which are operable for activating the transparent touch panel tablet 1b to communicate code signals. IC card 2 simply has marks 20 which are visually transparent to an operator through the surface of transparent touch panel tablet 1b and includes instructions for assigning the marks to areas of the transparent touch panel tablet 1b. An assigned area of the transparent touch panel tablet 1b itself is the object that an operator physically pushes for the transparent touch panel tablet 1b to generate a code signal corresponding to the assigned area. Thus, the assigned area of the transparent touch panel tablet 1b is a "button" for activating the transparent touch panel tablet 1b and is of the transparent touch panel tablet 1b, but is not of the IC card 2.

Accordingly, the combination of King, Rohrberg, and Kobayashi does not teach or suggest, as claimed, an identification device having a base module and object modules in which the base module is operable for communicating commands, the object modules have codes for the base module to use when communicating commands, and the object modules have buttons for causing the object modules to provide the codes to the base module.

Thus, the Applicant believes that independent claims 1, 6, 11, and 13 are patentable under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over any combination of King, Rohrberg, and Kobayashi. Claims 2-3, 5, 7-8, 10, 14-16, 18, and 20 depend from one of independent claims 1, 6, and 13 and include the limitations therein. Accordingly, the Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection to the claims under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over King, Rohrberg, and Kobayashi.

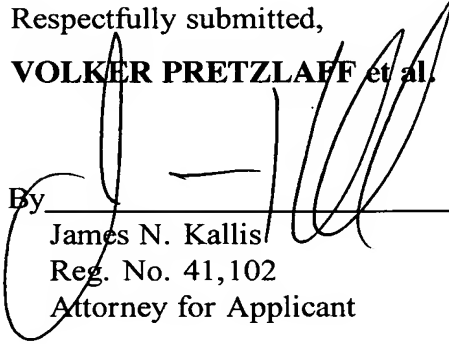
The Examiner rejected claim 19 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over King in view of Rohrberg and in view of Kobayashi as applied to claim 18 above, and further view of U.S. Patent No. 6,374,164 issued to Eklind. Claim 19 depends from independent claim 13 and includes the limitations thereof. Thus, the Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal to the rejection of claim 19 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

CONCLUSION

In summary, claims 1-3, 5-8, 10-11, 13-16, and 18-20, as amended, meet the substantive requirements for patentability. The case is in appropriate condition for allowance. Accordingly, such action is respectfully requested.

If a telephone or video conference would expedite allowance or resolve any further questions, such a conference is invited at the convenience of the Examiner.

Respectfully submitted,
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